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REPORT ON 53rd ANNUAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

As we fly out of old New York and look back upon the 53rd Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society we realize the futility of attempting to summarize adequately in this space even the highlights of the past four days. However, we shall attempt this feat.

The first session on Saturday afternoon, November 9, was very appropriately opened by Roger Tory Peterson with breath-taking Kodachromes of African wildlife, followed by President John Baker's film and account of a new marsh-beach sanctuary in New Jersey, and "Conservation News from Canada" by John Livingston of the Audubon Society of Canada. Next event, titled "The Elephant Hunter," turned out to be the thrilling quest of Mr. Waldermar H. Fries to locate and record the whereabouts of all original Audubon folios in America (now believed to number 76).

Sunday, November 10, your president was included among the few chosen to visit the Roosevelt Memorial Sanctuary at Oyster Bay, Long Island. This proved both inspiring and entertaining, due to the organizing talents of Carl Buckheister and the nature-lore and wit of Allan Cruickshank — not overlooking the prodigious labors of one James Callaghan, who built this trailside museum and 16-acre woodsy sanctuary virtually single-handed. An added surprise was the presence of Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt to greet us at the Sagamore Hill home of this great naturalist and American. Meanwhile, other Audubon conventioners had been taken to Coney Island for a tour of the New Aquarium — still small, but proud owner of a healthy young walrus.

Monday forenoon we heard a report on the Key Deer Act and the pending Everglades National Park Bill. (More later on this vital measure aimed at adjusting park boundaries and securing more water.) Hurricane Audrey and its devastation of the Rainy Wildlife Sanctuary in Louisiana was described by a man who lived through it, Superintendent Nick Schexnayder. Whooping Cranes as a zoo family by word and picture, step by step, were presented by their number one foster father, Superintendent George Douglass of the Audubon Park Zoo in New Orleans. Measures to propagate more cranes and to better safeguard wild birds were discussed by the "crane advisors," including Director Daniel H. Janzen of the Fish and Wildlife Service and Curator William G. Conway of the New York Zoological Society.

"Effects of Chemical Sprays on Wildlife" was the afternoon topic—most graphically opened by Mrs. Thomas M. Waller—a lady farmer from Connecticut armed with a startling array of facts. Dr. James B. DeWitt of Fish and Wildlife, President Fairfield Osborn of the Conservation Foundation and New York Zoological Society, and others, including another outspoken lady from Wisconsin, all gave similar critical versions of current spray practices—but no one appeared to defend the soundly thrashed U. S. Department of Agriculture! It was unanimously agreed that the Fish and Wildlife Service should receive additional moneys for research into spray uses.

The Monday evening meeting at the American Museum of Natural History (other assemblies were held in the nearby New York Historical Society hall) featured a hilarious film on "The Goonies of Midway" by Stephen F. Briggs, with more sobering remarks by Dr. John W. Aldrich of Fish and Wildlife, who described dire threats to the albatross and other sea birds, due to their conflict with planes—particularly jets. A talk by Howard Zahniser of the Wilderness Society followed, and then as a finale the beautiful film by our own Laurel Reynolds, "The Audubon Sanctuaries of the Texas Coast."

"Water Birds of South Florida" were discussed on Tuesday morning by Robert P. Allen, Research Associate for National Audubon. Disappearance of all the nesting Wood Ibis since the recent drought, and sharp reductions of other heron species, were very grim reports. "New Developments at the Audubon Center of Connecticut were described by our Screen Tour friend, Charles E. Mohr, while the New Aullwood Audubon Center at Dayton, Ohio, was described by the Center's Educational Director, Dorothy A. Treat, with slides by Managing Director Thomas P. McElroy. A bonus event to terminate this program was the introduction of James Fisher of England, co-author of *Wild America,* and an indescribably lovely British nature film, "Journey Into Spring."

Last regular business of the Convention at the Tuesday afternoon session revealed the selection of the popular and efficient Carl Buckheister to eventually assume National Audubon presidency upon the retirement of John Baker in two or three years. Of course, all delegates and members present were saddened at the thought of losing John Baker, who has come to be thought of as "Mr. Audubon" by many of them.

There were also receptions, tours and refreshments at Audubon House, and a very special dinner for delegates and staff members. Finally, came the scintillating banquet at the Roosevelt Hotel, where New York society really appeared and the head table suggested a living "Conservationist Hall of Fame," with famous names too numerous to include here. The program featured a short talk by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross Leffler and a new film by Karl Maslowski. This film and Maslowski's commentary, "Waterways Wildlife," portrayed graphically the inter-dependencies of humans, wildlife and all nature on *water,* while at the same time offering superb wildlife scenes. We consider this to be one of Maslowski's finest achievements and a very fitting finale for an outstanding convention program.

— Paul F. Covel, *President*

Miami, Florida, 11-14-57

SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

All members and friends of the Golden Gate Audubon Society are invited to share the thrill of taking part in the San Francisco Bird Count on Sunday, December 22, 1957, at 8 a.m.

The groups and the leaders are: Group 1, Palace of Fine Arts, Lee Stallcup (LO 9-3185); Group 2, McLaren Park, Mission & Geneva Ave., Frank Zografos (NE 2-7153); Group 3, Land's End, Sutro Heights, Harold G. Peterson (LO 8-7534); Group 4, Golden Gate Park, Fulton & 30th Ave., Dr. Albert Boles (GL 1-6267); Group 5, GG Park, at 10th Ave., Joel T. Hedgpeth (LO 4-9232); Group 6, GG Park, also at 10th Ave., Florence I. Plymell (PR 6-1208) and Mrs. Junea W. Kelly (LA 2-7084); Group 7, Lake Merced and Fleishhacker Playground, Loris Phil Smith (LO 9-9451); Group 8, Stern Grove, Myra Browne (TW 3-5469); Group 9, Seal Rocks and Pacific Ocean, Charles T. Hines, Jr. (OV 1-0935); Group 10, Presidio at Lombard Gate, Carlyle Sather (PL 6-0581); Group 11, S.F. Bay, foot of Van Ness Ave., Peter A. Veitch (CL 4-2419); Group 12, Treasure and Goat Islands, L. Richard Leinbach, (LA 6-7649); Group 13, Smaller City Parks, Robert R. Chase (JU 7-4018); Group 14, Marin Shoreline, Elizabeth S. Lennon (ED 2-1641).

The official count period is December 21 to January 1. Sign up with your leader and take part in this important team effort. Participants are invited to share the 50¢ entry fee.

— Arthur H. Myer, *Compiler* (TH 5-3080)

OAKLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual East Bay Christmas Bird Count will be taken on Saturday, December 29, in the various parts of a 15-mile diameter circle extending from S. of Oakland Airport north to Pt. Isabel in S.E. Richmond and inland ao San Pablo Reservoir, Lafayette, St. Mary's College, San Leandro Reservoir and Golf Links Road. This is an exciting all-day adventure starting as early as 4:30 a.m. (for those who wish) and officially ending any time up to midnight, although most observers quit at dark. All those who wish to participate will be most welcome. In the past, some of the rarest species have been reported by busy housewives. who were unable to go afield but devoted what time they could to keeping a close lookout for birds at their feeding stations or in their gardens. Anyone who might be able to contribute on a part-time basis in this manner should telephone the compiler, Lee Stallcup (LO 9-3185).

Those who will able to spend the whole day, or most of it, in an assigned area of the circle, either with or under the guidance of a leader, should call one of the group leaders listed below:

Harry Adamson .....AT 3-2164
Dr. Albert Boles .....GL 1-6267
Mrs. Myra Browne .....TW 3-5469

Paul Covel .....KE 6-4120
Alan Craig .....AS 3-9700
Dr. A. L. Curl .....LA 6-7004
Mrs. Junea W. Kelly .....LA 2-7084
L. R. Leinbach .....LA 6-7649
Wendell Lipscomb .....TH 3-4610
Arthur Myer .....TH 5-3080
Harold Peterson .....LO 8-7534
Ed Schafer .....LA 4-1193
Frank Scott .....AS 3-1253
Lee Stallcup .....LO 9-3185
Mary Taylor .....TH 5-8437

— Lee Stallcup, *Compiler,* LO 9-3185.

TOMALES BAY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

On Wednesday, January 1, 1958, a Christmas count will be taken in the Tomales Bay Area. Observers are urgently needed. Last year's count was 134 species, many common species being missed mainly because of an insufficient number of observers. If able to attend, please contact Alan Craig (AS 3-9700, Berkeley) or Phyllis Lindley (Audubon Office in Berkeley, TH 8-4042), or meet in Inverness at 8 a.m.

— Alan M. Craig, *Compiler,* AS 3-9700.

OCTOBER OWLING TRIP TO U. C. CAMPUS

A group of ten somewhat discouraged but determined "owlers" gathered on the U. C. Campus at 4:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 13, in spite of the heavy rain. No owls were seen or heard—even the Barn Owls, which invariably may be seen under the eaves of the Hearst Mining Building, could not be squeaked out of their nesting and roosting cavities. In the hopes that the rain would be less vigorous east of the Coast Range, most of the group went over to the San Joaquin Valley. Even here there was light but steady rainfall until about 11:00 a.m.

The following 68 species were observed, principally on Twitchell Island and in the Ritchie Ranch area, and at St. Mary's Lake on the way back: Pied-billed Grebe, Common Egret, Mallard, American Widgeon, Pintail, Shoveler, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon (?), California Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule, American Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Common Raven, Common Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Common Bushtit, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Logger-

head Shrike, Hutton's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Redwinged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Common Goldfinch, Lesser Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— ALAN CRAIG, *Leader and Historian.*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Miss Margaret J. Colling, Mr. Franklin B. Wright, Mrs. E. P. Winter, Mrs. Evangeline V. Coates and Miss Mary L. Gruening; from Castro Valley, Mr. Dale W. Walters; from Eldridge, Mrs. Blanche Mack; from Oakland, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence M. Vickland and Mrs. Estelle B. Kauffman; from San Francisco, Mr. Wesley Ashford and Mrs. E. A. Ewing; from Santa Rosa, Mrs. George S. Titus.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman.*

NEW RECORDS OF BIRDS NEAR ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

Since September 15 through the middle of October 5 species hitherto unrecorded as present on the campus of the college appeared for periods of one observation to a duration of several weeks. These were the following: American Egret, Avocet (one taken as specimen), 2 Marsh Hawks, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 3-4 Pigmy Nuthatches. In addition, 1 Osprey, 1 partial albino Robin, and frequent small flocks of Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen. The latter were not frequent on the campus until last Spring.

— ARTHUR S. CAMPBELL.

AUDUBON CAMP OPENING DATES

Opening dates for the five 2-week sessions at the Audubon Camp of California in 1958 will be June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3 and August 17. Ten Year Anniversary Season! Register now for the session of your choice.

DECEMBER MEETING

The 482nd regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held Thursday, December 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the Main Library in San Francisco, Larkin Street at McAllister (No. 5 bus on Market Street). Our president, Paul Covel, will give a report on the 53rd Annual Convention of the National Audubon Society, which he attended in New York City November 9 - 12. Also, as a double feature, we shall have Mr. Gordon Orions of Berkeley, who will give an illustrated talk on "Adventures with Birds of Prey." Mr. Orions, studying for his Ph.D. at the University of California, has made a special study of hawks and owls. A most interesting evening is assured. Come and bring a friend.

— BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

Note: A no-host dinner at the Whitcomb Hotel, 1231 Market Street (near the library) will precede the meeting. Everyone welcome. Moderate prices. Be there at 6 p.m.

FIELD TRIPS FOR DECEMBER

Sunday, December 8, CONN LAKE in Napa County. A joint trip with the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Willow thickets, tule marsh, deciduous woodland, chaparral-covered slopes, and open hillsides and farmland, together with a large inland reservoir, all add up to the sum of one superb wildlife region. Those who have made this trip in previous years will agree that it is one of the best. Those who will be making the trip for the first time have a real thrill in store. Meet at the stone bridge on the Silverado Trail about one mile northeast of Napa at 9:15 a.m. Bring interested friends, lunch, binoculars and telescopes. Leader, Carlyle Sather, PL 6-0581 (Colma).

Saturday, December 14, LAKE MERRITT AND LAKESIDE PARK. It has been suggested in the past that this "wasted space" in Oakland be drained, filled and paved to provide more parking space for the ever-increasing automobile (abundance and wheelbase). It is obvious to the conservationist and nature enthusiast that progress of this sort is not always the most important product. Oakland is one of the few major cities which can be proud of surrounding a nationally known wildlife refuge where many species of waterfowl may be observed at relatively close range. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center near the feeding area at 9:00 a.m. Bring interested friends and same equipment as suggested for the Conn Lake trip. Leader, Paul Covel, KE 6-4120.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman,* LO 9-3185

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Your purchases (books, gifts, binoculars, teaching aids, educational games, records, bird feeders) from the Berkeley Office — 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4 — assist in supporting the wide conservation education program of the National Society.

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Have you been keeping your "Birder Individual Questionnaire", sent to you last Spring, up to date? The year is drawing to a close when it is to be returned to Fred Evenden, 1336 Fitch Way, Sacramento 25.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.
Established January 25, 1917
A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.00 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042